

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation without prejudice of claims 21 to 23 and 29, claims 16 to 20 and 24 to 28 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

Regarding the allegedly noncompliant Information Disclosure Statement, the Examiner will note that a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, including a copy of "Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 2000, No. 14, March 3, 2001," is submitted herewith.

III. Objection to the Drawings Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a)

Regarding the objection to the drawings, the Examiner will note that a replacement sheet of drawings including Figures 1 and 2, a first new sheet of drawings including Figure 3 and a second new sheet of drawings including new Figures 4 and 5 are submitted herewith. Figures 1, 2 and 3 have not been amended. Figure 4 illustrates a steering system 19 including an electric motor 20 and a worm gear mechanism 21, and Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view of the electric motor 20 and worm gear mechanism 21 of Figure 4. In addition, the Specification has been amended without prejudice to include a description of new Figures 4 and 5. No new matter has been added.

Regarding claim 20, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to, for example, Figure 3.

Regarding claim 29, although the merits of this objection regarding claim 29 are not necessarily agreed with, claim 29 has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present objection with respect to claim 29.

Regarding the rest of the features allegedly missing from the drawings, the power-assisted steering system and power steering system of claim 16 is designated by reference numeral 19 in new Figure 4, the electric motor and worm gear mechanism of claim 16 are respectively designated by reference numerals 20

and 21 in new Figures 4 and 5, and the drive toothed section of claim 18 is designated by reference numeral 10 in Figure 3.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Objection to the Drawings Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(b)

Regarding the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(b), while the merits of this objection are not necessarily agreed with, to facilitate matters Figures 4 and 5 have been added, in which Figure 4 shows a steering system 19 with an electric motor 20 and a worm gear mechanism 21 and in which Figure 5 shows a connection of a composite gear wheel 1 to an electric motor 20 and a worm gear mechanism 21. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

V. Objection to Claim 1

Regarding the objection to claim 1, it is assumed that the Office Action intended to raise an objection to claim 16, since claim 1 was canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed on April 17, 2006. Nevertheless, it is respectfully requested that this matter be clarified in the next Office communication.

Regarding the objected-to text in claim 16, this claim has been amended in a self-explanatory manner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

VI. Rejection of Claims 16 to 29 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd ¶

Regarding the rejection of claims 16 to 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite, although the merits of this rejection are not necessarily agreed with, to facilitate matters, claim 16 has been amended herein without prejudice to delete the phrase, “wherein the projection is conical at the axial side faces of the ring gear,” thereby rendering moot this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VII. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claim 23. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 16 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in

claim 23 and in intervening claims 21 and 22. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is in condition for allowance along with dependent claims 17 to 20 and 24 to 28.

VIII. Claim Rejections

Regarding the rejections raised under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), while the merits of these rejections are not necessarily agreed with, as indicated above, claim 16 has been amended to include all of the features included in claim 23 and in intervening claims 21 and 22. Since claim 23 was indicated to include allowable subject matter, it is believed and respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 16 render moot the rejections raised under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

IX. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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